

SECRET

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY
WHITE HOUSE SUPPORT STAFF

CIA/OCI /WHIZWH 740320

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Item No.: WH #001

DIRECTOR: WHITE HOUSE SITUATION ROOM

SUBJECT: CAMBODIA--THE MILITARY SITUATION

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The 700-man Cambodian Army force dug in just east of Oudong continues to fend off Khmer Communist attacks. A government relief force trying to reach Oudong from the east ran into stiff resistance several miles from the town. Another relief column remained stalled north of Oudong on Route 5. The Communists are using 105-mm howitzers in the Oudong area. Refugees from Oudong estimate that the insurgents have herded off about half of the town's population of 25,000. They also stated that civilian casualties were high and that 90 percent of Oudong has been destroyed.

Government troops yesterday dislodged the remaining insurgent elements from Route 1 some 15 miles from Phnom Penh. South

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of the capital, the Communists on March 19 directed a brief barrage of 105-mm howitzer fire against Takeo City. Other Communist units, however, promptly closed the road closer to the city. Military activity at Kampot City was limited to minor shellings and ground probes.